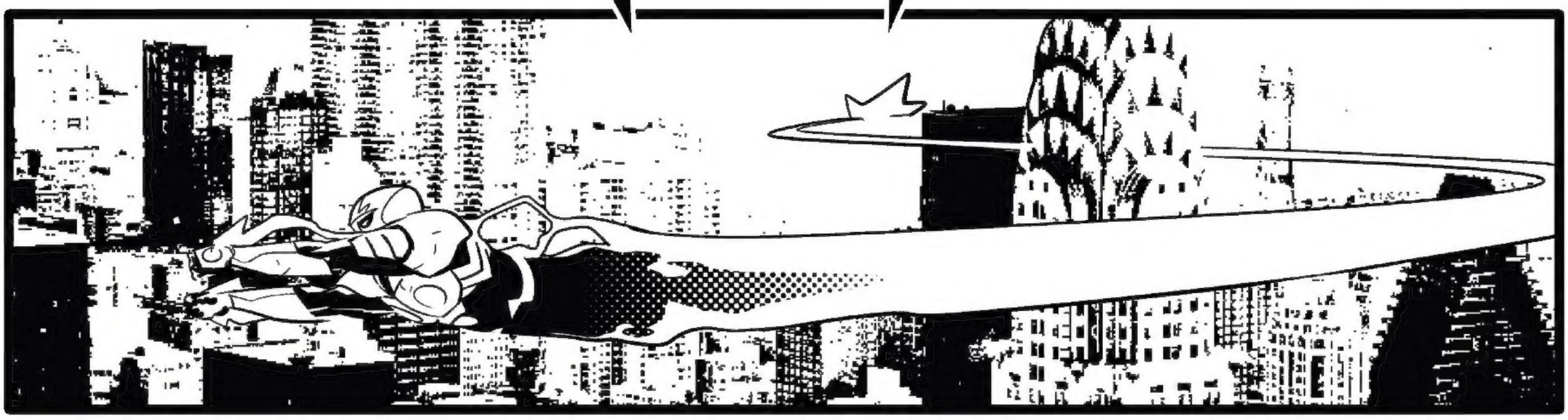
MARVEL #4

LOVENESS
PÉREZ
HERRING

NOVA®



AFTER BEING MURDERED BY THANOS IN A PARALLEL DIMENSION CALLED THE CANCERVERSE, RICHARD RIDER, A HERO OF THE INTERGALACTIC NOVA CORPS, HAS MYSTERIOUSLY COME BACK FROM THE DEAD.

RICHARD CAME HOME TO EARTH AND WAS SURPRISED TO FIND THAT 15-YEAR-OLD SAM ALEXANDER HAS BEEN OPERATING AS NOVA, SAVING THE WORLD WITH THE TEENAGED SUPER-TEAM CALLED THE CHAMPIONS! TOGETHER, SAM AND RICH HAVE BEEN LEARNING HOW TO COEXIST AS NOVAS AND HAVE ALREADY TEAMED UP TO TAKE DOWN A FEW DANGEROUS BOUNTY HUNTERS.

BUT RICHARD HAS A SECRET--SOMETHING CAME BACK WITH HIM FROM THE CANCERVERSE. SOMETHING POWERFUL AND DANGEROUS. SOMETHING HE ISN'T SURE HE CAN CONTROL...

Writers
JEFF LOVENESS & RAMÓN PÉREZ

Artist
RAMÓN PÉREZ

Color Artist
IAN HERRING

Letterer
COMICRAFT'S ALBERT DESCHESNE

Cover Artist
RAMÓN PÉREZ

Assistant Editor
ALLISON STOCK

Editor
DEVIN LEWIS

Executive Editor
NICK LOWE

Editor in Chief
AXEL ALONSO

Chief Creative Officer
JOE QUESADA

President
DAN BUCKLEY

Executive Producer
ALAN FINE

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Sure.

Really?!

Yeah. Sure. I don't really know anyone here yet, so--

Great!

Wait. Not great that you don't know anyone. Or have friends.

But... great that... you're free to, uh--

What's that?

Oh, this? Uh. Just *War and Peace*.

You're reading *War and Peace*?

For *fun*?

Yeah. Almost done. You like books too, right? So weird.

PEACE

AMA MFA

Pick me up at seven?

Okay, Lina. Cool. I should probably go... read some more.

Wait-- Pick you *up*?

Who am I?

I'm Rich.

Richard Rider.

A New Warrior, a Defender, a Champion of Xandar.

Nova.

I know who I am.

I guess now the better question is...

...What am I?

FWISH

KTANG

KRAK

PAF

FLIP

HEH.

Just the girl I was hoping to find.

Rider...?

She said yes!

Ugh. Ego's beard hair **really** doesn't wash off.

But she said yes!

Don't screw this up.

You always screw this up.

WIPE

But...where's this even go?

I mean...I can't tell her I'm Nova. Am I just lying to her, then?

What if something happens to her **because** I'm Nova?

Ugh. Stop. I don't even know if she likes me.

First dates are bad enough.

PLIK

Forget the Nova stuff for a day and just be a person.

I get to just be a person...right?

KAPOW!

What the--

I'm gonna get you, evil space tiger man!

POW POW POW!

MOM!

Kaelynn's being a brat!

HERO HQ

Be nice, Sammy.

I have a date! I have to get ready!

Play with your sister. She loves her big hero brother.

But I don't--

Can I wear your helmet?

AUGH.

NO!

Last time you put on my helmet, you put a hole in the wall and we got kicked out of the house!

Now go away!

Zzz

Mom! I need to borrow the car!

WHAT?! NO!

You don't have a license yet! I'll drive you.

Zzz

Mom! I fly to space, like, EVERY DAY!

I stopped an alien brain from exploding! I can drive a car!

Not without a license! Let's go!

Kae Kae! Abuelita's here and she's the boss until I'm back.

Be good!

Zzz

OKAYYYYY!

Man, I forgot. Nobody hits harder than you, Gamora.

I heard rumors you were back.

...Why?

Well, it's good to see you, too--

Quill came back! Thanos came back! And you were *gone!* For years!

Now, you're suddenly here? Why?

And why... why didn't you *tell* me?

Gamora, I *wanted* to.

I'm sorry. Something's been...

I've...

Hey.

You wanna get out of here?

Okay. Relax. It's just a first date. (Wait, it IS a date, right?)

Yeah. It's a date. A first date.

What's the worst that could happen?

326

126

HOVER

I changed my mind.

Because you suck.

Oh...

Okay.

You suck.

Everyone thinks so.

Especially me.

We talk about it all the time...

She's right.

You suck... so hard.

Hey.
Hey.
Thanks for driving.
Oh... uh...about that...
HONK HONK
...I don't have my license yet.
Heh. And then Sammy started crying! Right in the middle of the store!
He tried out those little shoes that used to light up when you walked. He got scared of his own shoes!
Mom! Why are you telling this story now?
And then he got SO scared that he--
Mom!
Let's just say we had to buy the pants, too.
You have a lot of trouble with pants.
Mom. Please just drop us off.
What? I'm just having fun.

So you wanna tell me why you were hiding out in my old safe house?

Thanos is being held on Earth.

Well. *That* seems like a bad idea.

I will kill him.

That's an even worse idea.

The Ultimates and S.H.I.E.L.D. are pursuing me.

But I heard you were alive... and I thought... you would understand.

But maybe I didn't know you as well as I thought.

Hey. Listen.

I've always got your back. You know that.

I'm sorry I didn't reach out sooner.

You're one of the only people who... know me.

But I didn't want you to see me like this. While I'm...

While you're what?

...

Rich?

Heh. Guess we never were that good at talking.

WALLETS! HAND 'EM OVER!

We were good at *other* stuff, though.

Ugh, why did she drop us off at the mall? Who goes to the mall anymore?

Uh... need anything... at the mall?

Not really.

You hungry?

Sure.

Shoes!

Yeah. We're kinda full, but I can maybe squeeze you in if you wait for two hours?

Okay. Maybe.

WEST SIDE VIGIL'S

Sorry. I should've looked ahead of time--

Maybe we can go to a movie? Do you like movies? I don't really know what's playing, but--

Sam.

You don't have to do all...this.

All what?

I dunno. Mall food. Movies. Dumb high school date stuff.

You don't have to be so nervous around me.

...I can do that.

Great.

Okay, so no bad mall food or movie...

Any suggestions? I've sucked at this so far.

Just...be a person.

I dunno... Wanna walk around? Make fun of people?

Perfect.

So you've lived here your whole life?

Yeah, pretty much.

Ever get tired of it?

Ha, definitely. It's so different from New York.

Are you in New York a lot?

Oh...yeah. Uh. I had an internship.

I don't know if I like small towns.

I feel so disconnected from what's going on in the world.

I just look at the world, and everything's so depressing now.

My dad isn't *from* here...and I'm scared for him. I'm scared for my mom. I'm scared about *everything.*

I want to do something to help the world.

But what can I even do? I'm not, like, Captain America. I don't matter.

...You matter. To me.

To... uh. Lots of people.

You matter a lot.

And... I dunno. I'm not smart about... *things.*

But I feel like everyone's always looking at the big problems and freaking out.

But the big problems are all just lots of *small* problems.

And we can fix small problems.

We just gotta...

Hey!

Leave him alone!

Hmm. This would be a lot easier with my helmet.

DOK

A lot easier.

HA HA HA HA HA

Hey, man. You Okay? Did they hurt you?

No. Thanks a lot.

You got a place to stay tonight? The shelter? My mom works there on weekends. Tell 'em you're a friend of Eva's.

Sam! Oh my God. Are you Okay?

Yeah, I've taken bigger hits than that.

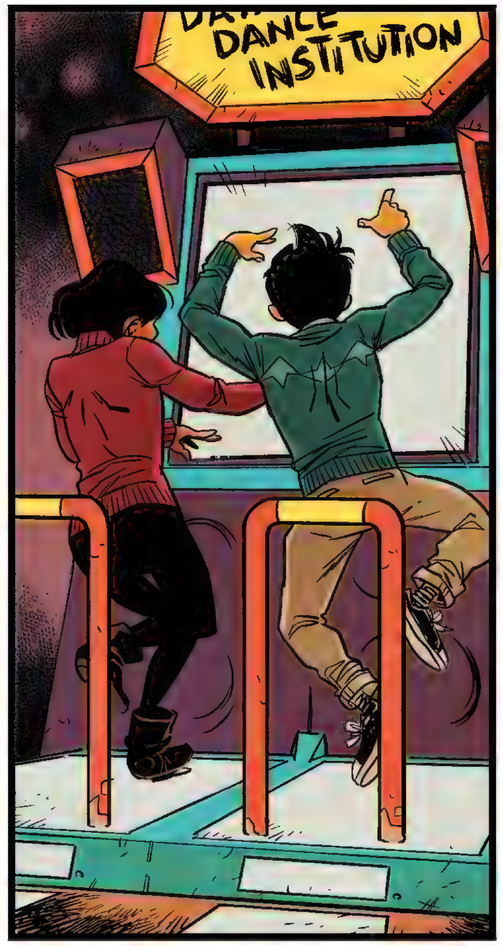
That was... I didn't think you were the kind of guy to--

Yeah, well... small problems, y'know?

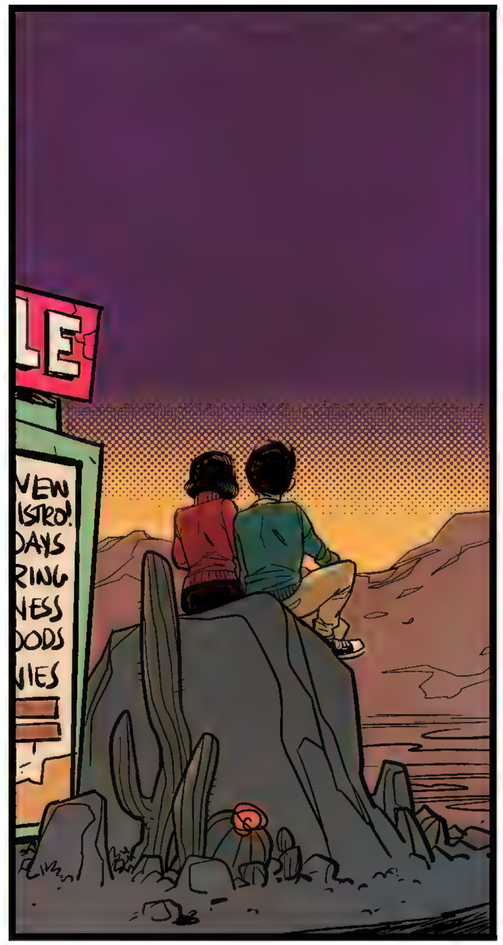
What next?

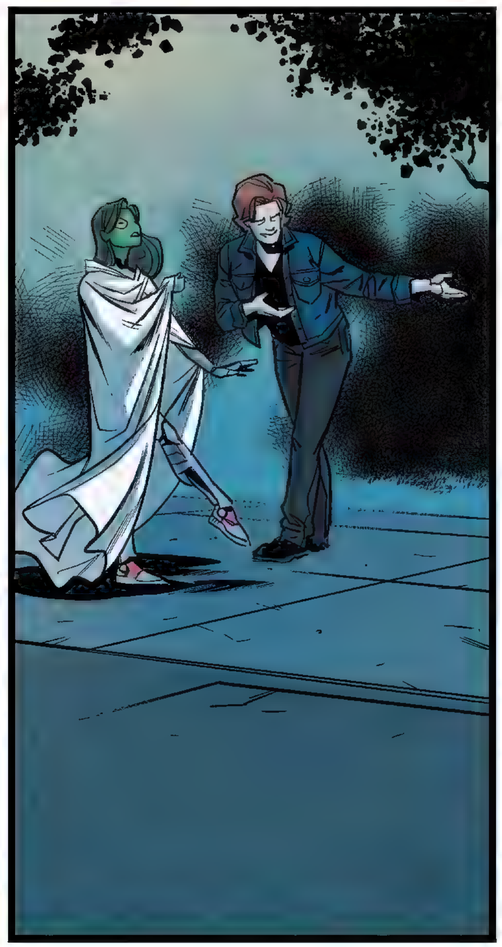
KRAK

We were good at a lot of stuff.


DANCE
INSTITUTION

BISTRO!





AURGGH!

Rich? What's happening?

I... haven't told you everything.

Something's wrong.

Rider! You need help!

There's no time!

Oh, God. Sam!

This is my fault.

...We're always running out of time.

Nice job.

What? We didn't *do* anything.

Mhm.

What?

I know that look. You're just like your dad.

But you need to get your license. I'm not your date taxi.

SNRK

I fly! In space! Every day!

Tell that to the DMV.

Oh my God...What happened?

Abuelita?

No, no, no...

Dios mio, un demonico, un demonico.

KAELYNN?!

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT:

NOVA

ZONE